MitoBench: An interactive visual workbench for population genetics on mitochondrial DNA



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Introduction

Despite the availability of modern next generation sequencing technologies and therefore nuclear human genomes, the sequencing and analysis of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is still common. Especially in the research field of ancient DNA and the context of population genetics, mtDNA is often the only proxy available to study extinct populations and their relationship with modern populations. As a consequence, many population genetic studies rely on the analysis of mtDNA.

A plethora of methods for the analysis of mtDNA exist, that address questions in population genetics, phylogeny and others. However, these tools typically rely on different file formats and often require manual interaction with the data for downstream analysis. Ultimately, these steps can be cumbersome, especially for non-bioinformaticians, resulting in an increased risk of errors during the analysis.

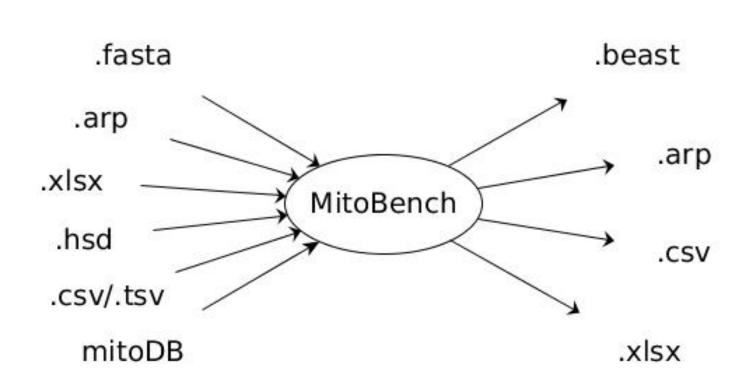
To tackle these issues, we present MitoBench, a workbench to interactively analyze and visualize mitochondrial genomes with a focus on population genetics. The graphical user interface is kept simple, to accommodate even users without further prior knowledge on computational methods. Furthermore, it shows additional information such as metadata and statistics. Currently, MitoBench offers automatic file conversion tools to connect the workbench with existing analysis methods such as BEAST, Arlequin and others.

MitoDB

- Web-Frontend with Vaadin Java Framework
- Backend with PostgreSQL, providing sequence information and meta-data (SQL)
- Curated data upload with metadata
- Retrieval possible through WebUI and mitoBench

MitoBench

Data import and export



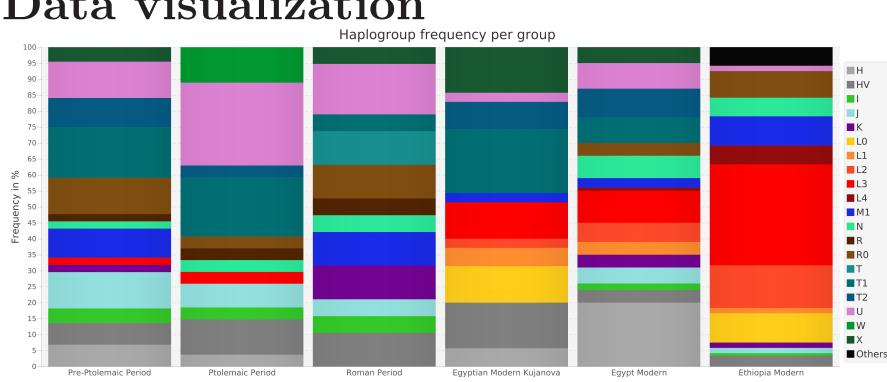
Data representation User table

| ID | MTSequence | Haplogroup | Time Period | continent | country | country_region | culture_type | dating_lower |
|--------------|------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|----------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| JK2880 | GATCA | T1a2 | Pre-Ptolemaic Period | Africa | Egypt | Beni Suef | Ancient | -669 |
| egypt.5AJ129 | GATCA | X1c | Egypt Modern | Africa | Egypt | Other | Modern | 2015 |
| egypt.6AJ68 | GATCA | H3w | Egypt Modern | Africa | Egypt | Other | Modern | 2015 |
| egpg5305866 | GATCA | L3f2a1 | Ethiopia Modern | Africa | Ethiopia | Other | Modern | 2015 |
| egypt.6AJ63 | GATCA | R0a3 | Egypt Modern | Africa | Egypt | Other | Modern | 2015 |
| egpg5305863 | GATCA | M1a5 | Ethiopia Modern | Africa | Ethiopia | Other | Modern | 2015 |
| egpg5305862 | GATCA | R0a2 | Ethiopia Modern | Africa | Ethiopia | Other | Modern | 2015 |
| egpg5306038 | GATCA | R0a2g | Ethiopia Modern | Africa | Ethiopia | Other | Modern | 2015 |
| egpg5306032 | GATCA | L0f2b | Ethiopia Modern | Africa | Ethiopia | Other | Modern | 2015 |
| egpg5306031 | GATCA | L3i2 | Ethiopia Modern | Africa | Ethiopia | Other | Modern | 2015 |
| egpg5306030 | GATCA | L2a1d1 | Ethiopia Modern | Africa | Ethiopia | Other | Modern | 2015 |
| egypt.7AJ139 | GATCA | 16b | Egypt Modern | Africa | Egypt | Other | Modern | 2015 |
| JK2879 | GATCA | U3b | Roman Period | Africa | Egypt | Beni Suef | Ancient | 2015 |
| JK2878 | GATCA | T1a7 | Ptolemaic Period | Africa | Egypt | Beni Suef | Ancient | -235 |
| egypt.8AL34 | GATCA | H20c | Egypt Modern | Africa | Egypt | Other | Modern | 2015 |

Data grouping

- interested in behaviour of different groups \rightarrow Group data by feature
- internal grouping (columns not sorted)

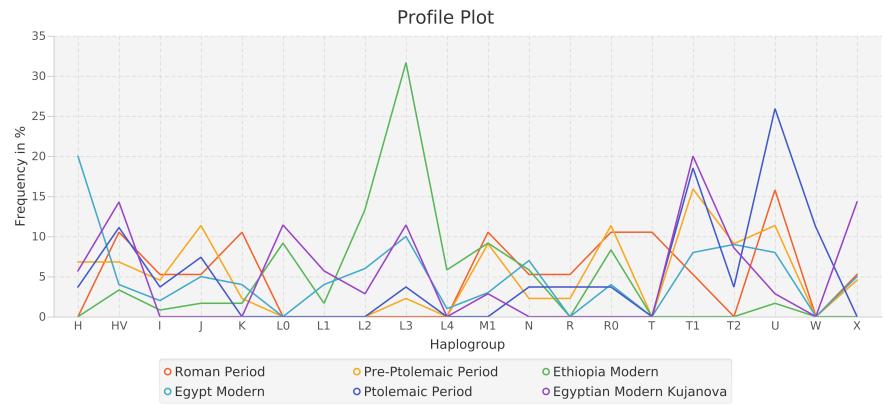
Data visualization



Data filtering / Statistics

- Haplogroup filtering / frequencies
- Mutation filtering / frequencies

Data visualization



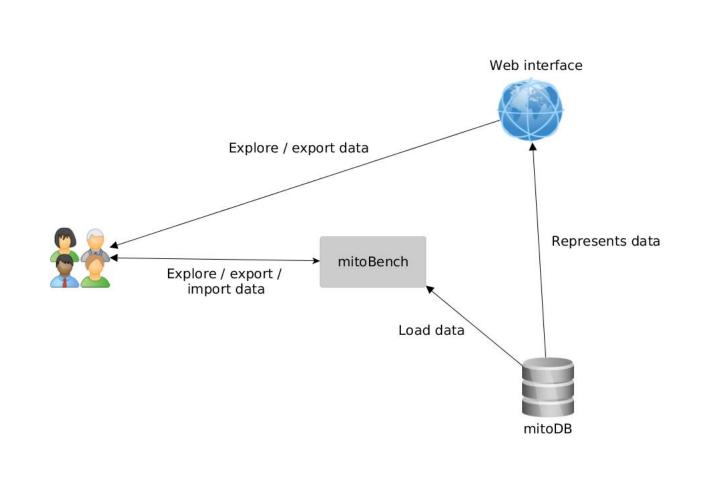
Conclusion

MitoBench

- Easy file handling and file conversion
- Combination, manipulation and visualization of mitochondrial data
- Data filtering
- Statistics

MitoDB

- Collection of mitochondrial data plus meta information
- Curated database
- accessible via mitoBench and web interface



References

Laurent Excoffier and Heidi EL Lischer. Arlequin suite ver 3.5: a new series of programs to perform population genetics analyses under linux and windows. $Molecular\ ecology\ resources,\ 10(3):564-567,\ 2010.$

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